

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 AID-20 DRC-01 /178 W

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R 220940Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1542

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 0861

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LY EG MR TS AG

SUBJECT: LIBYAN INTEREST IN MAGHREB UNITY; BOURGIBA'S POSITION

REF: TUNIS 5293

1. QADHAFI, AT ALGIERS MEETING WITH BOUMEDIENE, BOURGIBA AND OULD DADDAH, ASSERTED HE WISHED SEE SEARCH FOR WAYS TO LINK LIBYA WITH MAGHREB CONTINUE.

2. MOUKNASS HAS TOLD ME THAT WHEN ALGERIAN, TUNISIAN AND MAURITANIAN HRESIDENTS MET WITH QADHAFI TO SOUND OUT HIS VIEWS ON FUTURE OF LIBYAN-MAGHREB TIES, THEY OPENED WITH BLUNT QUESTION, DID LIBYAN LEADER INTEND PURSUE UNITY WITH CAIRO TO EXCLUSION ALL OTHER POSSIBLE MOVES TOWARDS ARAB UNITY? IF SO, THERE NO POINT THEIR PURSUING A DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE STRENGTHENING OF LIBYAN-MAGHREB TIES. QADHAFI REPLIED THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE HIS GOAL OF UNITY WITH CAIRO BUT THAT HE HAD BECOME "A BIT MORE REALISTIC" ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR ITS EARLY REALIZATION. IN MEANTIME, HE ASSURED THE OTHERS, HE REMAINED OPEN TO EXAMINING

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ALL PROSPECTS FOR CLOSER TIES WITH THEIR COUNTRIES. THE FOUR

PRESIDENTS THEREUPON AGREED TO "STAY IN CONTACT" ON MAGHREB
UNITY MOVES.

3. ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT BOURGIBA'S SEPTDMBER 7 SPEECH
(TUNIS REFTEL) REFLECTED TUNISIAN LEADER'S DECISION TO MOVE
MORE SWIFTLY TOWARDS MAGHREB UNITY, MOUKNASS REPLIED BOURGIBA
WAS NOT CLEAR ABOUT THIS DURING PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH OULD
DADDAH AT ALGIERS. BOURGIBA, HE NOTED, ALSO CONSISITENTLY TOOK
CARE TO EMPHASIZE HIS CONCEPT OF MAGHREB UNITY WAS THAT OF
"CONFEDERATION" AND NOT "FEDERATION."

4. COMMENT. QADHAFI'S WILLINGNESS AT LEAST LEAVE POSSIBILITYD
OPEN OF CLOSER ORGANIC TIES BETWEEN LIBYA AND GROUP OF MAGHREB STATES
IS CLEARLY GRATIFYING HERE.
MURPHY

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NNN

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